

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 VOE-00 OES-07 HEW-06 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6555

UNCLAS CAIRO 10577

DEPT. FOR CU, VO, OES

PASS HEW/OIH (D.STEPHENS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, OEXC, CVIS

SUBJ: FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES; VQE/ECFMG EXAMS

REF: CAIRO 9995

1. MINISTER OF HEALTH HAS TOLD SCIATT THAT HIS ACTION IN PREVENTING YOUNG EGYPTIAN PHYSICIANS FROM TAKING NEXT ECFMG EXAM WAS FOR TWO PURPOSES:

A. TO PREVENT BACK LASH AGAINST US, WHEN AT LATER DATE VISAS ARE DENIED THOSE WHO PASSED ECFMG.

B. TO PREVENT YOUNG PHYSICIANS FROM TAKING EXAM UNNECESSARILY. SINCE VQE IS NECESSARY FOR VISA, AND ECFMG CERTIFICATION CAN BE BASED ON VQE EXAM AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, IN MINISTER'S VIEW THERE IS NO POINT IN TAKING ECFMG. ALL PHYSICIANS WHO PLAN OR NEED ENTRY INTO US SHOULD TAKE ONLY VQE. TO TAKE BOTH IS WASTE OF MONEY AND TIME. MINISTER WOULD BE VERY PLEASED IF VQE COULD BE GIVEN IN EGYPT AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

2. MINISTER'S FIRST POINT HAS BEEN BORNE OUT TO SOME EXTENT THROUGH CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUNG PHYSICIANS WHO HAD BEEN DENIED PERMISSION BY MOH TO TAKE ECFMG. MANY WERE UNAWARE
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ECFMG WOULD NO LONGER SERVE AS BASIS FOR VISA BUT THOUGHT THAT US WAS NOW REQUIRING THAT THEY TAKE NATIONAL BOARDS AFTER ENTERING US ON VISA OBTAINED VIA ECFMG. MOST HAD NOT HEARD OF VQE. ALL WERE UNHAPPY. BADRAN SAID HE WAS TRYING SPARE USEMBASSY SHOUTING AND PROTESTS HE HAD BEEN ENDURING.

3. FYI: A THIRD REASON FOR MOH ACTION ALLUDED TO EARLIER BY UNDERSECRETARY GOMAA (REFTEL, PARA 3) SEEMS TO BE TO PREVENT YOUNG MAKE PHYSICIANS FROM LEAVING COUNTRY TO AVOID MILITARY SERVICE. SEVERAL DOCTORS FREELY ADMITTED THIS PURPOSE FOR WANTING TO LEAVE TO SCIATT.

4. WE URGE RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES TO FAVORABLY CONSIDER EARLY HOLDING OF VQE IN EGYPT (REFTEL). THIS MIGHT BE DISCUSSED WITH BADRAN WHEN HE IS US FOR JWGMC MEETING. WE ALSO NEED VQE BOOKLETS (REFTEL).
EILTS

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